

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 202727
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202727

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, BE

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE

REF: BRUSSELS 10394

1. REFTEL REQUESTED INFORMATION ON US INTENTIONS REGARDING
RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

2. USG COSPONSORED UNSC RESOLUTION 409 WHICH CALLS ON
MEMBER STATES TO PROHIBIT USE OR TRANSFER OF FUNDS BY
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PAGE 02 STATE 202727

OFFICIAL OVERSEAS OFFICES OF THE RHODESIAN REGIME (EXCEPT
FOR PENSIONS OFFICE). THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE
IS A REGISTERED FOREIGN AGENT OF THE RHODESIAN REGIME
AND CLEARLY FALLS UNDER THE TERMS OF THE RESOLUTION.
CONSEQUENTLY, THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED RIO
OF USG INTENTION TO FREEZE ITS BANK ACCOUNTS TO PREVENT
TRANSFER OR USE OF FUNDS. WE ASSUME THAT THIS WILL LEAD

TO THE TERMINATION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF RIO AS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REGIME.

3. IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT A PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER IS NECESSARY TO GIVE THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO TAKE THIS ACTION. AN EXECUTIVE ORDER IS CURRENTLY IN PREPARATION. (FYI: USG IMPLEMENTATION OF

THE UNSC RESOLUTION HAS BEEN DELAYED BY RECENT ATTEMPTS BY CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORTERS OF RIO TO PREVENT ACTION AGAINST IT BY ATTACHING BINDING RIDER TO DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION BILL. AS A RESULT, WE ARE PROCEEDING CAREFULLY WITH ISSUANCE AND TIMING OF EXECUTIVE ORDER TO MINIMIZE ANY FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL COMPLICATIONS. END FYI)

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SUPPORTERS OF RIO IN THE US MIGHT ATTEMPT TO RECONSTITUTE AN ENTIRELY PRIVATE OFFICE FUNDED BY AMERICAN SOURCES. THIS WOULD NOT VIOLATE US LAW. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE ASKED TO CLOSELY REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE OFFICE TO ENSURE THAT THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WERE NOT ACTING AS UNREGISTERED FOREIGN AGENTS OF THE RHODESIAN REGIME.

5. WE UNDERSTAND FROM AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN CABINET HAS DETERMINED TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION INTO PARLIAMENT WHICH WILL IN EFFECT CLOSE AN ANALOGOUS OFFICE IN SYDNEY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE REPORTING ON DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THE AUSTRALIAN SITUATION. CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 03 STATE 202727

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